

evidently the spore-like, globose cell in its nascent state, or in progress of evolution.

Bristol, Dighton Street, Oct. 3, 1857.

*Note.*—Mr. Berkeley writes me:—"I believe in the end both it and the *Sarcina* of the stomach will prove the *incunabula* of Moulds." I scarcely venture to dissent from such an authority, yet there is as great difficulty *à priori* in thinking *Sarcina* to be an Alga, altered in development and its autonomous state masked by growing in an unusual or unnatural habitat, than that a similar condition affecting the growth of a mould should cause it to assume the character of *Sarcina*. Mr. Berkeley, comparing the bone *Sarcina* with his mounted specimens of *S. Ventriculi*, makes both pretty nearly correspond in size. Specimens, however, of *S. Ventriculi* in the collection of Mr. Stoddart of this city, to whom I am indebted for the measurements of the bone-plant, are fully four times the size of the latter. It appears, then, that *S. Ventriculi* varies very greatly in size; yet Mr. Stoddart, for an entire year, made careful *daily* measurements of the granules of *S. Ventriculi* from the ejections of a patient, and found them invariably of the same size.

As the real nature and affinities of the genus *Sarcina* are as yet doubtful, the two known species may be provisionally thus characterized:—

*S. Ventriculi* (Goodsir). Granulis opacis, fusco-olivaceis.  
Habitat in ventriculo hominis præsertim.

*S. ossium* (mihi). Granulis pellucidis.  
Habitat in ossibus bovinis ustis ex Brasilia.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE XII.

*a, a, a.* Portions of bone with Cryptogams.

*b, b.* Cells of *Sarcina ossium*, more or less magnified.

*c, c.* Gelatinous matter (of frond?) and granules or cells of *Sarcina ossium*, treated with sulpho-iodine.

*d.* Alga, with filamentous Fungus magnified.

*e, e, e.* Threads and spore-like cells of ditto.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*A Manual Flora of Madeira and the adjacent Islands of Porto Santo and the Dezertas.* By R. T. LOWE, M.A. Part I. Thalamifloræ. 12mo. London, Van Voorst, 1857.

THE residence of so eminent a naturalist as Mr. Lowe in Madeira during twenty-six years has afforded ample time and opportunity for the acquisition of an accurate knowledge of its vegetation; and botanists have long looked to him for a good Flora of the island. He was well known to be devoting his leisure time, since his return to England, to the preparation of such a work. Unfortunately a bad state of health has again rendered a temporary removal to a warmer climate necessary. He has therefore published so much of this work as could be prepared for the press and printed before his departure. An examination of this portion of the work, extending to 106 pages, renders us only the more desirous that he may soon be enabled to return home and complete the remainder of the book. In this part we are given short, but sufficiently full characters of all



